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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicant : Schaefer et al.
Serial No. : 09/996,244
Filed : November 28, 2001
Title : TRAPPING AND STORAGE OF FREE THERMAL NEUTRONS IN
FULLERENE MOLECULES
Docket : 594826-001C1
Art Unit : 3641

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This paper is submitted in response to the restriction requirement which issued in the above-identified application on March 21, 2002. This response is accompanied by a petition for a one month extension of time and a Preliminary Amendment.

In view of the accompanying Preliminary Amendment, the applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement, as it relates to claims 1-19 and new claims 29-33 be withdrawn. If this action is adopted, it will be consistent with the action taken by the same examiner in the parent application. In that case, the examination of the application went forward on the basis that the applicants were not claiming a use or utility for the fullerene molecule in the claims but the molecule itself. A copy of the examiner's remarks from page 2 and 3 from the Official Action of October 31, 1996 is attached.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants provisionally elect Group I but traverse the restriction requirement as it affects claims 1-19 and newly added claims 29-33, as these claims are all directed to a fullerene molecule having the characteristics claimed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

Mark P. Levy
Reg. No. 27,922

THOMPSON HINE LLP
2000 Courthouse Plaza NE
10 West Second Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-1758
Telephone (937) 443-6949
Facsimile: (937) 443-6635

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